

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
20 January 2005 (20.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/005329 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C02F 5/00
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2004/002899
- (22) International Filing Date: 6 July 2004 (06.07.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 0315842.5 7 July 2003 (07.07.2003) GB
- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except MN, US*): RECKITT BENCKISER N.V. [NL/NL]; Kantoorgebouw De Appelaer, De Fruituininen 2-12, NL-2132 NZ Hoofddorp (NL).
- (71) Applicant (*for MN only*): RECKITT BENCKISER (UK) LIMITED [GB/GB]; 103-105 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 3UH (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): CORRADINI, Fabio [IT/IT]; Reckitt Benckiser Italia, Piazza S. Nicolo 12/3, I-30034 Mira Ve (IT). KOSUB, Mike [DE/DE]; Scheelkopf 10, 76646 Bruchsal (DE).
- (74) Agents: BROWN, Andrew, Stephen et al.; Reckitt Benckiser plc, Group Patents Department, Dansom Lane, Hull HU8 7DS (GB).
- (81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Declaration under Rule 4.17:  
— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations
- Published:  
— with international search report  
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 7 April 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/005329 A3

(54) Title: WATER-SOFTENING METHOD

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to a method of water-softening using a water-softening product and products useful in such methods. The invention describes such products and processes wherein a change to the product occurs during the washing process. Any change will happen as well in soft water.